

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY
November 6, 2000**

CASE NO: GS-2000-525, GC-2001-19

Office of the Public Counsel
P.O. Box 7800
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Missouri Public Service Commission
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Michael C. Pendergast
Laclede Gas Company
720 Olive Street, Room 1520
St. Louis, MO 63101

Enclosed find certified copy of an ORDER in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale Hardy Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Laclede Gas Company)	
Regarding an Incident at 1904 Birchwood)	<u>Case No. GS-2000-525</u>
Drive, Barnhart, Missouri, on)	
February 7, 2000)	

The Staff of the Missouri Public)	
Service Commission,)	

Complainant,)	
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v.)	
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Case No. GC-2001-19

Laclede Gas Company,)	
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Respondent.)	
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(Consolidated)

ORDER DIRECTING FILING OF STAFF MEMORANDUM
ON STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT

Case number GS-2000-525 was established by the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) on March 1, 2000, for the purpose of receiving a gas incident report from the Staff of the Commission (Staff) and the response of Laclede Gas Company (Laclede) thereto, pertaining to an incident which occurred on February 7, 2000, involving a natural gas explosion and fire at 1904 Birchwood Drive in Barnhart, Missouri.

Case number GC-2001-19 is a complaint filed by the Staff against Laclede, alleging that in the incident set forth above, Laclede violated or failed to comply with Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-40.030(14)(C), which prescribes the procedures for the

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investigation and classification of gas leaks and for scheduling the repair of these leaks.

The cases were consolidated by the Commission on September 13, 2000, and a prehearing conference was held on October 18, 2000. As a result of discussions during and after the prehearing conference, Laclede, Staff and the Office of the Public Counsel filed their proposed stipulation and agreement (Agreement) on November 2, 2000.

The Agreement stated, *inter alia*, that the Staff may submit to the Commission a memorandum explaining its rationale for entering into the Agreement. According to the Agreement, each party shall be served with a copy of the memorandum and shall have the right to submit to the Commission a responsive memorandum served on all parties. In addition, the responsive memorandum shall be served on all parties within five days after the service of Staff's memorandum.

Thus, the Commission will order that a memorandum from Staff as set forth above be filed no later than December 6, 2000.

On September 19, 2000, the Commission ordered that a procedural schedule be filed no later than November 2, 2000. Due to the developments in this case, the Commission will order that the deadline for the filing of the procedural schedule be stayed until further notice.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall furnish a memorandum explaining its rationale for entering into the proposed Stipulation and Agreement between the parties, filed on

November 2, 2000, the said memorandum to be filed no later than December 6, 2000.

2. That any party who wishes to respond to the said memorandum shall do so within five days after the service of the memorandum on the responding party.

3. That the deadline for the filing of the procedural schedule be stayed until further notice.

4. That this order shall become effective on November 16, 2000.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Hardy Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Bill Hopkins, Senior Regulatory Law Judge,
by delegation of authority pursuant to
and Section 386.240, RSMo 1994.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 6th day of November, 2000.

STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and
I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City,
Missouri, this 6th day of Nov. 2000.



Dale Hardy Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge